

Appl. No. : 10/009,792
Filed : December 13, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Previously presented)** A recombinant plasmid vector which comprises:
 - a kanamycin resistance gene;
 - a promoter;
 - a nucleotide sequence coding for an endoxylanase signal sequence;
 - a nucleotide sequence coding for an oligopeptide consisting of 13 amino acids, wherein 6 of the 13 amino acids are consecutive histidine residues; and,
 - a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor (hG-CSF) gene.
2. **(Previously presented)** The recombinant plasmid vector of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence coding for the oligopeptide comprises a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 28.
3. **(Previously presented)** A recombinant plasmid vector pTHKCSFmII which comprises:
 - a kanamycin resistance gene;
 - a Trc promoter;
 - a nucleotide sequence coding for a *Bacillus sp.* endoxylanase signal sequence;
 - a nucleotide sequence coding for the oligopeptide of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - a gene coding for a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor (hG-CSF) lacking its native signal sequence.
4. **(Previously presented)** *E. coli* transformed with the plasmid vector pTHKCSFmII of claim 3.
5. **(Previously presented)** The *E. coli* of claim 4, wherein the *E. coli* is selected from the group consisting of *E. coli* XL1-Blue, *E. coli* MC4100, *E. coli* BL21 (DE3), *E. coli* HB101 and *E. coli* W3110.
6. **(Previously presented)** *E. coli* MC4100/pTHKCSFmII, deposited as KCTC 0754BP, wherein said *E. coli* is transformed with the plasmid vector pTHKCSFmII of claim 3.
7. **(Original)** A process for preparing a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor, which comprises the steps of:
 - culturing *E. coli* transformed with the plasmid vector of claim 1 to obtain a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor fusion protein; and,

Appl. No. : **10/009,792**
Filed : **December 13, 2001**

treating the human granulocyte colony stimulating factor fusion protein with a protease to obtain a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor.

8. **(Previously presented)** The process for preparing a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor of claim 7, wherein the plasmid vector is pTHKCSFmII.

9. **(Previously presented)** The process for preparing a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor of claim 7, wherein the human granulocyte colony stimulating factor fusion protein is isolated from the protein pool obtained from the culture using a Ni-column.

10. **(Original)** The process for preparing a human granulocyte colony stimulating factor of claim 7, wherein the protease is Factor Xa.

11. **(Previously presented)** The recombinant plasmid vector of Claim 3, wherein said vector comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.

12. **(Previously presented)** The recombinant plasmid vector of Claim 3, wherein said gene comprises nucleotides 88 to 610 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 and encodes the hG-CSF amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19.

13. **(Currently amended)** The recombinant plasmid vector of Claim 3, wherein said nucleotide sequence coding for said endoxylanase signal sequence comprises nucleotides 1-84 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26.